

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An optical fiber unit for air blown installation into a tube, comprising:

at least one optical fiber having core layer and clad layer;

a protective layer coated on a surface of the optical fiber; ~~and~~

a protrusion for receiving fluid drag force when the optical fiber unit is installed with use of blown air, wherein the protrusion is made of polymer resin and formed on an outer surface of the protective layer in a banded shape; and

a coating layer coated on the surfaces of the protrusion and the protective layer and made of one selected from the group consisting of glass, ceramic and polymer,

wherein the protrusion is large enough to create a sufficient fluid drag force in order for the fiber to be installed by air blown installation,

wherein the protrusion is formed discontinuously.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (original) An optical fiber unit for air blown installation according to claim 1, wherein the protrusion has a spiral, waved or sine-waved pattern.

5. (original) An optical fiber unit for air blown installation according to claim 1, wherein the protrusion has a sectional shape of triangle, semicircle, arc, trapezoid, or unevenness.

6. (original) An optical fiber unit for air blown installation according to claim 1, wherein the protective layer includes a buffer layer surrounding at least one optical fiber, and a sheath surrounding the buffer layer.

7. (original) An optical fiber unit for air blown installation according to claim 6, wherein the buffer layer has Young's modulus and hardness smaller than the sheath.

8. (original) An optical fiber unit for air blown installation according to claim 6, wherein an intermediate layer is provided between the buffer layer and the sheath in order to damp external impact.

9. (original) An optical fiber unit for air blown installation according to claim 8, wherein Young's modulus and hardness of the intermediate layer are smaller than those of the sheath and larger than those of the buffer layer.

10. (original) An optical fiber unit for air blown installation according to claim 1, wherein the protrusion is made of the same material as the protective layer.

11. (original) An optical fiber unit for air blown installation according to claim 1, wherein the optical fiber includes a multi-core ribbon-type optical fiber, and the protective layer has a circular sectional shape.

12. (previously presented) A method for manufacturing an optical fiber unit for air blown installation, comprising:

forming a protrusion for receiving fluid drag force when the optical fiber unit is installed with blown air having a banded shape on the outer surface of at least one optical fiber having core layer and clad layer by supplying polymer resin onto an outer surface of the optical fiber while passing the optical fiber through a hollow extrusion die in which a predetermined groove is formed in an inner surface thereof,

wherein the protrusion is formed discontinuously by supplying the polymer resin onto the outer surface of the optical fiber discontinuously.

13. (original) A method for manufacturing an optical fiber unit for air blown installation according to claim 12, in the protrusion forming step,

wherein a protective layer is formed on the outer surface of at least one optical fiber, and the protrusion is formed on an outer surface of the protective layer.

14. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing an optical fiber unit for air blown installation according to claim 12, in the protrusion forming step,

wherein the protrusion is formed in a spiral, waved, or sine-waved pattern by rotating the extrusion ~~die~~ die around the optical fiber or rotating the optical fiber which is passing through the extrusion ~~die~~ die.

15. (original) A method for manufacturing an optical fiber unit for air blown installation according to claim 12, further comprising the step of coating any of glass, ceramic and polymer resin on the surface of the optical fiber having the protrusion.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) A method for manufacturing an optical fiber unit for air blown installation, comprising:

forming a protrusion for receiving fluid drag force when the optical fiber unit is installed with use of blown air having a banded shape on an outer surface of at least one optical fiber having core layer and clad layer by supplying polymer resin through a nozzle onto the outer surface of the optical fiber while moving the optical fiber along a longitudinal direction thereof,

wherein the protrusion is formed discontinuously by supplying the polymer resin onto the outer surface of the optical fiber discontinuously.

18. (original) A method for manufacturing an optical fiber preform for air blown installation according to claim 17, in the protrusion forming step,

wherein the protrusion is formed in a spiral, waved, or sine-waved pattern by rotating the nozzle around the optical fiber or rotating the optical fiber.

19. (original) A method for manufacturing an optical fiber unit for air blown installation according to claim 17, further comprising the step of coating any of glass, ceramic and polymer resin on the surface of the optical fiber having the protrusion.

20. (cancelled)